Mr. BUSHEL'S Minerall Overtures.

Right Honourable:

ACcording to your commands, I do here preſent your Lordſhips with a briefe Narrative of the Lord Chancellor BACONS directions to my ſelfe, for the management of his Minerall experiments, in caſe his own death ſhould ſtop his intended progreſſe therin, before he could practically diſcover the true generation, and ſpreading qualities of Mines Royall, I being then his Meniall Servant.

King JAMES having already promiſed to grant his Lordſhip all his own diſcoveries of Mines Royall, and alſo of any drowned Lands, or deſerted Works by him to be recovered within the ſpace of 40. yeers, paying him the fifth according to the uſuall cuſtome of the King of Spain, in his Mines of the Weſt Indies, and of other Princes, after the expiration of 14. yeers firſt granted gratis towards the great charge of his new invention, to facilitate the obtaining the Minerall riches of this Land, occaſioned by a learned Speech his Lordſhip had lately made to his Majeſty: Count GUNDAMORE, and divers of the Nobility being preſent, concerning the riſe, and magnificent growth of the China Trade, wherein by a perfect demonſtration, he made it appear, that the invention of one man (by his helping the defects of nature, with the materials of Art, and the patience of three ages induſtry to bring its concoction to perfection) became the great Revenue of that Empire, and hath been for this thouſand years the only honour of that people, aſwell as the livelihood of their patrimony; in which he ſeriouſly proteſted, that his utmoſt ambition in the affairs of this world affected no greater

ter glory, then to leave the reall fruits of his beſt ſervice to his Sove-raign, honour to his name, his written works to poſterity, and by ſuch treaſures as his own induſtry ſhould raiſe out of his Minerall experimen:s to accompliſh the noble deſign and fabrick of his Solomons houſe, deſcribed in his Naturall Hiſtory, ſince the corporation of the Mines Royall, inſtituted by his Majeſty, conſiſting of Lords and Gentlemen of quality, produced but weake, or very ſmall advantages to his Majeſties Revenue, or the publick good, although his Lordſhip did then really believe it very poſſible for himſelfe (if qualified thereto by his Majeſties power) to bring it ſo to paſſe in one age, that the barreneſt mountains in this nation ſhould produce ſuch ſtore of treaſure by their beds of mettle that this State ſhould not need to envy the King of Spains felicity in his POTOSEE, or any other his ſilver Mines in America; and thereupon by way of ſimilitude added this, that as a State, whoſe preſent dimentions were but ſmall, might happily ſerve as a foundation for an ample Monarchy, if all regard of private propriety were laid aſide, and every member thereof would diligently devote his particular care to the publick benefit: even ſo it might happen in the advancement of the diſcoveries of thoſe Minerall riches ſuppoſed to lie hid in the boſoms of the moſt barren Mountains, when the whole induſtry of the many ſeverall perſons imployed in that work ſhould be concentrick in that ſervice, and act as the united faculties of one man, their hearts being free from all ends and ambitious thoughts, ſave ſuch as conduced to Gods glory and the common good. But ſo ſoon as his Lordſhip had vouchſafed to acquaint me concerning his proceedings with his Majeſty in this affaire, he bad me call to mind the many fatherly favours, which he had conferred upon me as pious motives to retard my unripe years from hazardous travels in forraign parts; I having profeſſed to his Lordſhip, that I could not with any content reſolve to live in my native Countrey, ſince I firſt underſtood that yonger Brothers by the Law of the Land, were but to have little ſhare in their fathers inheritance, but that they were by the wayes of vertue and induſtry, by the aſſiſtance of the Almighties bounty, to acquire ſuch fortunes as primogeniture had conferred upon their elder brothers, or otherwiſe to live in an inferiour or ſervile condition, and then inſtanced his acceptance of me for his

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ſervant at fifteen years of age upon mine own addreſſe, his clearing all my debts three ſeverall times, with no ſmall ſums, his preferring me in marriage to a rich inheritrix, and thereupon allowing me 400 pounds *per annum* to ballance the conſent of her Father in the match; ſaying, that if thoſe reall expreſſions of his love could but find the due retalliation of my gratitude, he might then aſſure himſelfe of the hoped harveſt of two lives in one; inferring, that although fathers are bound to provide for their children, and worſe then Infidels if they do not, yet there is no ſuch injunction upon Maſters in relation to their ſervants; and therefore where a Maſters pious bounty tranſcends a Fathers naturall love, there that ſo obliged ſervant muſt appear moſt prodigiouſly ingratefull, which ſhall not with much zeale and faithfulneſs diſcharge the duty of a ſurviving truſt, ſeriouſly adding this: Bushell, I muſt now uſe you my intended inſtrument, in the proſecution of my Minerall deſigns, as politick Princes do their neareſt ſervants in their Cabinet Counſels, who putting their maſters conceptions into act, if they take well with the people, muſt own no more of them then the approbation thereof, and the admiration of their Princes wiſedome therein; but in caſe of miſcarriage, to ſalve their Princes honour, they muſt ſadly acknowledge the matter wholly their own, an Errour in their Counſels, and a Crime in themſelves; ſo you, if by my Theory you proſper in your practick, muſt attribute all the honour of the whole worke to me; if otherwiſe, you muſt gratefully preſerve my reputation, by acknowledging your own misfortune in miſtaking and miſacting my directions, and ſo you ſhall be ſure to gain the Title and Character of a gratefull ſervant in either event. And upon my ſerious proteſtation, that I would faithfully and curiouſly obey all his Commands concerning his Mynerall directions and deſigns, his Lordſhip firſt adviſed me, not to follow the practice of our Predeceſſors in their tedious and expenſive wayes of ſinking Ayreſhaffes at every forty Fathomes in ſearch of the uncertain Veyns, nor to immitate the Ancient Romanes by digging Mynes through deepe and open Trenches; but to obſerve his directions by cutting my Addits into the Mountains at the loweſt Levell of all drowned and deſerted works, and by ſupplying the defect of the Ayre in my far led Addits by Pipe and Bellowes, being an Invention utterly unknown to for-

mer Ages. And for my first experience, to begin with those five Mountains in Cardiganshire, upon a view thereof by Sir FRANCIS GODOLPHIN, and a Portugues (men of great experience in Mynes) reported by them to be rich in Silver and Lead. But if I should by my practick part faile in my deeper search either for want of convenient Ayre, or a sufficient Veyn of Ore, his Lordship commanded me to pursue his directions in that particular no further; yet if my happy successe should prove his Theory true in this, as also in the severall wayes of seperating the Mettle from the Drosse, and the Silver from the Lead, that then I should not faile to illustrate the innocent Trade of the poor Mynes, by making his Lordship the Patron of their profession, and my self one of their society, according to the many obligations of his Lordships forementioned favours, hereby performing the duty of a faithfull servant therein: And for my further discoveries of the Treasures of other Mountains, which have the same Symptoms of Rakes, Veyns, and Sparres, his Lordship conceived it most necessary for me, to dedicate the whole profit, which Gods providence should reveale in the one to the finding out of the Riches of the other; and as a first help in this work he counsels me to petition my Soveraign: That for the agrandizing his Royal Clemency and Magnificence, he would gratiously grant life to such as had offended in petty Felonies, and were willing to expiate their crimes by their diligent and dayly labours in his Majesties Mynes, and if possible to obtain a Branch of his Majesties Mint to encourage all Forrain & Native Miners, with due & certain paymēt, according to the president of other Princes, and not force them to take base Commodities at high rates for their painfull service, as hath been inforced by some former undertakers, which I feare hath entayled a Curse upon their fraudulent policies. But above all, that I should take a speciall care conscienciously to elect such honest Agents for the carrying on this innocently profitable work, whose vertuous ambitions should aime at nothing beyond the publike good of their Countrey, and a competent sallary for their modest maintenance: But these Embrions proving abortive by the sudden fall and death of that Lord in the Raign of King James, were the sad motives which perswaded my pensive retiremēts to my three years unsociable solitude in the desolate Isle called the Calfe of Man, where

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(abhorring the memory of my deſorate exorbitances) in obedience to my dead Lords Philoſophicall advice: I reſolved to make a perfect experiment upon my ſelfe for the obtaining a long and healthy life, moſt neceſſary for ſuch a repentance, as my former debauchedneſs required by a parcimonious diet of Hearbs, Oyle, Muſtard, and Honey, with water ſufficient, moſt like to that of our long-liv'd Fathers before the floud (as was conceived by that Lord) which I moſt ſtrictly obſerved, as if obliged by a religious vow. till divine providence calling me to a more active life. I diſcovered and perfected natures ingenious deſignes upon my rock at Enſton in Oxfordſhire, by making it ſuch an artificiall delightfull Grotto, that the fame of it invited the late K. *Charls* to a voluntary viſit. By which opportunity I not only became known to his Majeſty, but alſo found an apt occaſion to diſcourſe the above mentioned Propoſals of the Lord BACON to his owne attentive eare, who ſo well approved of my Engine upon that place, and his Lordſhips Minerall modell, that hee preſently promiſed mee the aſſiſtance of his Mint when I ſhould in thoſe mountains of Cardigan, find ſilver worth the Coyning; and likewiſe the accommodation of my own Lead ſo diſcovered, Cuſtome free for 21. yeers, as alſo my choiſe of renting the whole Cuſtome of that Commodity at the rate of the Farmers Books, calculated by the Account of 7. yeers Audit, whenſoever I ſhould procure to my ſelf the Aſſignment of Sir HUGH MIDDLETONS Leaſe of the Mines Royall in the County of Cardigan, to put the ſpeculations of my deare deceaſed Maſter into practice. Theſe high favours of the late King conferred on my ſelfe, in memory of that Lords eminent abilities, and this his admonition (before the Earle of Dorſet) to me at York. That (if in the war then like to enſue) I ſhould not prove reall, and active in his ſervice, and cordiall in the truſt repoſed in me by my *quondam* Lord, I ſhould juſtly merit the title and reputation of a Knave; which did then provoke mee forwards in my undertakings, with a moſt zealous obſervation of my obliged fidelity to both, till his Majeſty (at CAUSAM) diſingaged me in the firſt, that he might enable me, as much as in him lay, to perform the latter, by his gratious Letter of protection to defender Lundy, at my own charge fortified and maintained, without injury or violence to any, upon ſuch Articles as might take off any de-

linquency, and restore me to my estate, and the Grants of my Mines, Mints, and Customes, rather then the forementioned design so well digested by my Honourable Lord, for the generall good, should bee made fruitrate by my incapacity to prosecute it; I being the only man intimately made privy to all those his Minerall speculations, and some other of his Philosophicall Lucubrations, not yet to bee promulged, untill my proficiency and successe in the Mines shall enable me thereunto: which makes mee now become an humble and earnest Petitioner to this State, for their pious assistance in this hopefull work, for the good of this Common Wealth, and their own Honours: since I have taken the Engagement, and given security for my future integrity, desiring no greater riches or honour in this world, then to gratifie the late Civilities of those my friends which gave me credit, and by my utmost industry to manifest the great debt of love and honour I ow to the worthy memory of that unparalleld Lord, by redeeming my selfe in the service and opinion of my Country. For I protest, as in the presence of God, that if I could now command as much wealth as ever the Lidian CRESSUS did possesse, I would gladly adventure it all in perforating the barren Mountains to discover the vast Treasures which lie hid in their Rocky entrayles, for the good of this Common Wealth, and to leav to after Ages a Magnificent Monument in pious Memory of my most deserving Master, by finishing his SALOMONS house in all its dimensions, and with all the accommodations and endowments therof, according to his Lordships own Heroick Idea. And to that end I humbly tender these my propositions. First, to advance the Minerall Trade of this Common Wealth, to 1000l. per week, if the Parliament shall be pleased to ratifie to me the same Latitude of Power to effect it, which King JAMES granted to the Lord Chancellor BACON, and was since conferred by King CHARLES on my selfe, for the encouragement of me and mine assistants in the work; but if any unsatisfied concerned person shall object against the tedious Proposition of a 14. yeers period before my Mountains must bring forth this vast birth, and then peradventure expect but a ridiculous silver Mouse after this Timpany of promises. To beget more candor in such, and a better confidence in all, as a hopefull symptome of a lively Embrion, promising a larger off-spring, I shall in the interim

terim give Marts to all ſuch reſponſive perſons that ſhall be diffident of the ſucceſſe, and alſo duly pay all ſuch Rent as is now received by the State from the Farmers of the Mines and Cuſtomes of Lead; and likewiſe engage my Life and Fortune, that the cleer fifth part ſhall be worth to this State 500l. the week; and in the ſame proceſſe of 14. yeers more, it ſhall be worth 1000l. the week. I having many noble friends that will adventure their money gratis for 14. yeers, to manifeſt their love to their Country; and to ſee the perfection of thoſe Experiments in the L. BACONS Philoſophy, I having already by his direction cut through five of the 28. Mountains at the loweſt Level, which his Lordſhip and Sir FRANCIS GODOLPHIN, did mark out as the moſt pregnant Hills for diſcovering the Beds, and ſpreading Branches of this Nations Minerall Treaſure; ſo that no man of known judgement but muſt conclude the reſt to be of the ſame ſpecies, or of richer natures, in their deeper ſearch both for quantity and quality.

Thomas Bushell

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Engl. Overtures
in Minuet.

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